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Docket No.: 030048128US  
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(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Alan K. Prichard

Application No.: 10/814,116

Confirmation No.: 5148

Filed: March 31, 2004

Art Unit: 3679

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR JOINING  
STRUCTURES

Examiner: M. P. Ferguson

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.114**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.